

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Brian Burke today as an outstanding American citizen and community leader.

HONORING MICHAEL LOUIS  
VONBEHREN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Michael Louis VonBehren of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. At Michael's young age he already symbolized what we all hope to be. He actively exhibited enthusiasm for academics, for community service and for the Democratic Party. In acknowledgement of his commitment and dedication to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, this year's annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award is dedicated in his memory.

Michael VonBehren was an engaging young man who loved the democratic process. Michael was a student at Shrewsbury High School where he was involved in clubs such as Young Democrats, Political Action Group, and Model U.N. Although he was involved in various clubs and organizations, he still found the time to serve his community. Michael was a caring and kind young man who loved to help those that were less fortunate. He read to homeless children at a local shelter and was a talented video producer at his high school.

Michael VonBehren was one of those rare teenagers that crossed normal boundaries and surrounded himself with those that shared his interests and beliefs whether they were his peers or a fellow volunteer on the campaign trail. There is no way of knowing what Michael would have done in the future. All that is sure is that he would have made a difference in our world. Michael was an exemplary student and citizen who showed others kindness and enthusiasm everyday of his life.

Michael's unfaltering commitment to fairness and justice and his dedication to public service greatly benefitted our community. In tribute to his outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury, I am proud to honor the memory of Michael Louis VonBehren with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award to him. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES  
E. WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Charles E. Williams, Jr., who has virtuously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Colonel Williams was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1986 upon his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his career he has served both at home and overseas and as Military Aide to both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush.

On October 1, 2007, Colonel Williams assumed command of the U.S. Army Special Missions Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As the Commander, he oversees the In-Service Recruiting of Special Operations, Warrant Officers and Chaplains, as well as the Logistics and Administrative Support for 1600 recruiting stations across the country.

Colonel Williams' decorations are numerous. Throughout his career he has been an inspiration and example to both soldiers and civilians alike. He has represented his country proudly as a man of honor and a true patriot.

After years of dedicated service, Colonel Williams has decided to retire. I honor him today because of his dignified and steadfast commitment to the citizens of this country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
WILLIAM J. MCCARTHY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, a U.S. Navy Veteran who was devoted to his family and friends. His leadership and work on behalf of the American laborer continues to strengthen and protect workers' rights throughout the Cleveland community.

Mr. McCarthy was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, where he later raised his own family. In 1956, he met and married the late Margaret J. Pawlak. Together they had four children: Marge, Kelly, William and Kevin. Their children, ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the most important part of their lives.

Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Mr. McCarthy began working as a meter reader with East Ohio Gas Company. He quickly ascended the union ranks to become one of the most powerful and effective labor leaders in Cleveland. He represented thousands of workers at East Ohio Gas, and led numerous strikes that won significant concessions in wages, benefits and safety improvements for workers. He was known for never giving up or backing down from what he believed was just and right. Mr. McCarthy's work on labor issues extended throughout Northeast Ohio, where he forged strong bonds with labor leaders, elected officials and workers. He served as Chairman of the AFL-CIO, President of the Ohio Joint Council of the Service Employees International Union, vice-president of Union Eye Care and as a board member with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, who had an unwavering devotion to his family and country, and whose work on behalf of workers' rights will continue to reinforce the labor foundation of the Cleveland community. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. McCarthy's daughters: Marge and Kelly; his sons, William J. Jr. and Kevin; his ten grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; and his sister, Noreen.

A TRIBUTE TO JACQUES  
GUILLAUME

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jacques Guillaume, MD, for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Dr. Jacques Guillaume was born in Haiti, studied both law and medicine at the State University of Haiti, then continued his studies here in the United States. Here he has combined his twin passions—law and medicine—to address the inequalities of justice and the inadequacies of health care in low-income communities. Dr. Guillaume has also held several managerial positions in the medical field, including Director of the Residency Training Program at the Catholic Medical Center, Director of OB/GYN at Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. Joseph. He currently serves as the Chair of the Gynecology Department at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Dr. Guillaume is a recognized leader in the OB/GYN community, publishing many articles in peer-reviewed journals. He frequently appears on television and radio programs to discuss health conditions. He clearly has a strong love of science and a real sense of justice.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jacques Guillaume.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF  
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 266, which celebrates 90 years of the United States-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world. I support this resolution because Poland is an important ally, partner, and friend to the United States.

My home town of Houston, Texas has a strong connection with Poland. Texas has long been an important destination for Polish people immigrating to the United States. In 1818 a handful of Polish immigrants arrived in Texas seeking refuge from turmoil in Europe. Immigration from Poland increased in the 1850s as severe weather, economic hardship, a food shortage, and disease spurred people to seek better fortunes elsewhere. Texas received another wave of Polish immigrants in